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Politics

PRES. THIEU TOURS LONG AN, GO CONG

Saigon, August 15, 1970--President Nguyen Van Thieu Friday made a tour of various hamlets and villages of Long An and Go Cong provinces.

In Long An province, President Thieu called at Nguyen Huynh Duc temple at Khanh Hau hamlet in Thu Thua district, where he met with local inhabitants and Civil Self-Defense cadres.

Leaving Thu Thua district, President Thieu called at some remote hamlets of Tan An and Binh Phuoc districts. He also had a talk with a large number of local inhabitants who gathered to greet him at the local district administrative office.

On this occasion, the RVN President reiterated the RVN government's moderate peace stand and strictly rejected a coalition government in South Viet-Nam.

President Thieu also dealt with the weakness of the Communist military force and called for the people's cooperation to eradicate the remaining enemy infrastructure cadres.

To cope with the Communists, according to President Thieu, there are two ways to follow, either to accept a moderate stand and appeal to the Communist cadres to rally the national cause, or to determinedly eradicate all reactionary elements.

Therefore, President Thieu said, if the Communists want to sign a peace agreement with us, we are ready to do so; otherwise we are also ready to continue our anti-Communist fight to bring about a just peace in freedom and independence.

President Thieu, on this occasion, dealt with the Pacification achievements scored in Binh Phuoc district as proof of the strength of the RVN government.

The President asserted that the war will surely be ended by our strong position and urged the people not to worry about irresponsible statements made by some individuals living in Saigon.

Later, President Thieu called at Thanh Tan hamlet, Thanh Phu Long and Thua My villages and the 3-35 Regional Force Inter-Company Command at Tan Hoa II hamlet, Thanh Vinh village.

At Thanh Vinh Dong village, the President was briefed by Mr. Do Van Kinh, the village chief, on the Pacification and Development activities at the locality.

On this occasion, President Thieu gave to the local authorities necessary instructions on the construction of more schools to meet local educational demands and on the dissemination of information on current events to help the local inhabitants understand various national activities.

After having lunch at Thanh Vinh Dong village, President Thieu by waterway called at Dong Son village, Hoa Dong district (Go Cong province) where he also attended a briefing on the development of the local village.

Before returning to Saigon, President Thieu toured Vinh Phuoc Tay village in Can Giuoc district (Long An province) to make an on-the-spot observation of the improvement of the local village to which he had paid a visit late last year.

Accompanying President Thieu on his tour of Long An and Go Cong provinces were Senator Hoang Xuan Tuu, 2nd deputy Senate Chairman, Reps. Phan Huy Duc, 2nd deputy L.H. Speaker, Pham Duy Tue, L.H. Secretary General, several Cabinet members, Presidential advisers and representatives of the diplomatic corps.

PRES. THIEU PRESIDES OVER GRADUATION CEREMONY FOR LAND CADRES IN VUNG TAU

Saigon, August 15, 1970--The Press Officer at the President's Office Saturday issued the following announcement.

President Nguyen Van Thieu Saturday presided over the graduation ceremony for 858 Agricultural Commissioners and Land Technicians of the 2/70 Training course at the Vung Tau Training Center.

All these graduates studied for two weeks the "Land-to-the-Tiller" policy which will enable them upon their return to the rural areas to help farmers correctly implement Decree-law 3/60 on the land reform policy.

On this occasion, President Thieu named the course "The New Rural Area".

In his talk to the graduates, President Thieu said this course was aimed at training cadres for the correct implementation of the "Land-to-the-Tiller" law and from now till the end of October, 4,000 cadres will be trained at this Center.

According to the President, the Land Reform Law is a basically revolutionary one and therefore to guarantee the success of its implementation, the government has trained and will go on with the refresher training of cadres to provide them with a firm stand.

In the implementation of this law, said President Thieu, the cadres must realize their weak and good points to help successfully carry-out the revolution bringing social justice for the rural people.

Moreover, the cadres must be careful and pay attention to the voice of the majority of land owners who have had to sell their land to the government.

President Thieu said that in his 1967 electoral campaign he had set forth three goals including solving the war, democracy building and social reform.

He concluded that he had implemented these goals since it is his duty toward the people.

Hence the President urged the cadres to efficiently serve the people and help him lead the nation to final victory.

Present at the ceremony were the Ministers of Land Reform, Agriculture and Fishery Development, Rural Development and Information and a number of government officials.

President Thieu returned to Saigon at 1:30 p.m. the same day.

P.M. TRAN THIEN KHIEM BACK HOME

Saigon, August 15, 1970--Prime Minister Tran Thien Khiem and his suit were back home Friday afternoon ending a 10-day official visit to the Republic of Korea, Nationalist China and Japan.

Welcoming the RVN Premier and party at Tan Son Nhat International airport were cabinet members, general officers and members of the diplomatic corps.

On this occasion, Prime Minister's Office Press Director Buu Nghi who made part of the returning delegation affirmed that "the RVN Premier brought up no assistance issue to Japanese authorities and there was no problem of financing 20 million U.S. dollars to South Viet-Nam by Japan".

"There was only a meeting between the Japanese and Vietnamese Premiers", Director Nghi said, "which resulted in the decision that Japan will send to South Viet-Nam a delegation of technicians for an on-the-spot economic survey".

Asked on the outcome of the meetings between Prime Minister Khiem and President Chiang Kai Shek and Premier Chiang Ching Kwo, Director Nghi said "no details were made available", but he disclosed that the meetings dealt with "problems of mutual concern between the two countries".

The Press Director at the Prime Minister's Office also mentioned the "big success" of the Viet-Nam Day at Expo '70.

"The RVN Art Troupe through its superb performance had magnetized the largest number of Japanese spectators which was only second to the Canadian Day", he said.

Director Nghi opined that "the friendly ties between the Republic of Viet-Nam and the ROK, Japan and ROC will be much more tightened" after the ten-day official tour by Prime Minister Khiem.

Meanwhile, Economy Minister Pham Kim Ngoc also of the returning delegation made it known that "our friendly Asian countries made proof of thorough understanding of the RVN situation and are willing to help us".

"Particularly", he went on, "Japan and the Republic of China will help Viet-Nam in the economic field. In addition, the Republic of Korea will provide military assistance to South Viet-Nam".

"Details of such assistance", he said, "will be highlighted in a news conference to be held before long in the Capital".

PRESS DIRECTOR NGHI ON P.M. KHIEM'S FAR EAST TOUR

Saigon, August 17, 1970--Prime Minister Office's Press Director Buu Nghi Sunday morning made plain several issues tied up with the recent RVN Premier's official visit to the Far East.

During his tour of Japan, Director Nghi said, Premier Tran Thien Khiem had close-door meetings with the Japanese Prime Minister on several matters of mutual interest including the Japan's assistance to the Republic of Viet-Nam.

No details of these meetings were made available, Director Nghi said, therefore one could not exactly know how many million U.S. dollars Japan has promised to help South Viet-Nam. Consequently, any figures alleged by the foreign press on this issue are of pure supposition.

Further, in the two news conferences held on August 7 in Seoul and on August 14 in Taipei prior to his departure, Prime Minister Khiem had reiterated President Thieu's six-point solution to the Viet-Nam war and also laid emphasis on the RVN President's stand of non-coalition with the Communists under whatever form.

Particularly in Taipei, when answering a NBC's correspondent's query on P.M. Khiem's viewpoint on White House spokesman Ziegler's recent statement concerning a conditional coalition solution in South Viet-Nam, the RVN Premier said, "it was only Mr. Ziegler's personal opinion".

In a recent news conference in Los Angeles, President Richard Nixon already affirmed that there will be no pressure on the Republic of Viet-Nam for the acceptance of any coalition solution.

Prime Minister Khiem laid stress on the fact that the future of Viet-Nam must be decided by the Vietnamese people.

"It constitutes the right of self-determination, the sacred privilege of a whole people which no one can violate", the Premier said.

Press Director Nghi also made it clear that when he said the Viet-Nam's Day at Expo '70 was attended by a large number of spectators which was only second to the Canadian Day, he would have meant the attendance at the celebration of the Viet-Nam's

Day and at the variety show highlighting that Day at Plaza Hall. This was also the opinion of a competent official of the Expo '70 Organizing Committee, Director Nghi said.

The Press Director still denied a press agency report alleging that the RVN Premier had to stay for more than an hour under the rain at Seoul airport.

"The August 6 visit to Pusan as scheduled was cancelled because of bad weather and another tour of various installations in Seoul took place instead, right afterward, there was no problem of the visiting delegation staying under the rain", the Press Director affirmed.

KHMER BATTALION COMPLETES TRAINING AT CHI LANG CENTER

Saigon, August 15, 1970--Maj. Gen. Phan Trong Chinh, Chief of the RVNAF Military Training Agency Saturday morning presided over the graduation ceremony for a Cambodian battalion at Chi Lang Training Center in Chau Doc province.

Present at the ceremony were Maj. Gen. Pok Fam An, Cambodian Force Chief of Staff and ranking officers of the RVN and Khmer forces.

This course which began last June 10 graduated the 3rd Battalion for the Khmer forces with five companies totalling 504 soldiers who will return to their country for the anti-Communist fight.

Two other Khmer battalions are under training at the center.

LAST CONTINGENT OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES LEAVES CAMBODIA

Saigon, August 15, 1970--Minister of State Dr. Phan Quang Dan and Mr. Chau Xeng Ua, Cambodian Social Affairs and Labor Minister Thursday presided over a farewell ceremony for the last contingent of Vietnamese refugees in Cambodia, totalling 5,413 persons, repatriated by the Vietnamese Navy.

The ceremony took place at Phnom Penh Quay.

On this occasion, Minister Dan expressed thanks to the Cambodian government for its sincere cooperation in relief missions to the benefit of Vietnamese refugees.

In his reply, Minister Chau Xeng Ua asserted that the repatriation of Vietnamese nationals was not advocated by the Cambodian government but it was carried out at the request of the Vietnamese residents themselves, due to the Communist North Viet-Nam aggression against Cambodia.

He pledged that those Vietnamese who still lived in Cambodia will be treated in the spirit of brotherhood and their security will be ensured.

Later, the repatriated received relief gifts and embarked on three landing ship tanks, HQ 501, 503 and 503 of the Vietnamese Navy.

Present at the farewell ceremony were several Cabinet members of Cambodia and the RVN, chiefs of local relief organizations and Cambodian and foreign newsmen.

CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT TO RELEASE ALL VIETNAMESE CONVICTS

Saigon, August 16, 1970--The Cambodian government has decided to release all Vietnamese convicts jailed in Phnom Penh, sources from the Central Relief Committee for Vietnamese nationals repatriated from Cambodia said.

The released will include 57 convicts sentenced previously by the Cambodian Military Court.

Minister of State Phan Quang Dan was informed of this release decision last Wednesday. The measure was a friendly gesture of the Phnom Penh government on the occasion of the three-day visit to Cambodia of the RVN delegation led by Minister of State Dan.

REPATRIATED VIETNAMESE GRANTED FREE-OF-CHARGE PUBLIC LAND

Saigon, August 18, 1970--The Relief Committee for Repatriated Vietnamese from Cambodia announced Tuesday that the newly-repatriated are granted public land without any charges within the scope of the resettlement plans designed for them which the government carries out directly or with the cooperation of civic organizations.

Some Saigon dailies recently reported that some individuals taking advantage of some organizations demanded the repatriated Vietnamese to pay a sum of money so as to be allotted public land for resettlement.

The Committee also urged the newly-repatriated to immediately inform it or the Interior Ministry of any case of cheating as mentioned above.

Foreign Relations

PRES. THIEU GREETES ROK NATIONAL DAY

Saigon, August 15, 1970--The Press Secretary at the President's Office Friday announced that President Nguyen Van Thieu, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Korea, August 15, sent a greeting message to President Park Chung Hee.

In the meantime, President Nguyen Van Thieu, on behalf of the government and people of the Republic of Viet-Nam extended greetings to President Park Chung Hee and best wishes for the well-being and prosperity of the Korean people.

The Vietnamese people are grateful for the valuable assistance and noble sacrifices the Korean people had reserved for them in the defense of their freedom, the message read.

President Thieu also expressed the strong belief in the success of the peace-loving peoples efforts, especially the Korean and Vietnamese peoples, in the defense of freedom and independence in Asia.

RECEPTION MARKS ROK NATIONAL DAY IN SAIGON

Saigon, August 17, 1970--On the occasion of the Republic of Korea's National Day, August 15, Mr. Sewon Kim, Charge d'Affairs at the ROK Embassy in Viet-Nam, Saturday afternoon held a tea party at the Embassy building on Nguyen Du Street, Saigon.

Attending the tea party were Dr. Nguyen Luu Vien, Deputy Prime Minister concurrently Education Minister, Foreign Affairs Minister Tran Van Lam, a number of friendly countries' Ambassadors, and Vietnamese and Allied general officers.

At the party, the ROK Embassy disseminated the recent message sent by President Park Chung Hee to the Korean people according to which the main efforts of the ROK government and people in 1970 are centered on the reunification of the fatherland.

On this occasion, Minister Lam and guests joined in a toast to the Korean people and President Park Chung Hee.

Later, in an interview with the press on the Vietnamese situation, Minister Lam said he has made so far no decision on the appointment of a new RVN Consul General in New Delhi.

Economics

MEKONG RIVER PROJECT CONFERENCE ENDS

Saigon, August 17, 1970--The Republic of Viet-Nam declined to accept projects discussed at the Mekong River Project Conference since none of them was regarded as able to meet the RVN needs.

Mr. Pham Huu Vinh, Secretary General of the Public Works Ministry representing the RVN at the Mekong International Committee made the statement Monday morning at the final session of the 8-day conference which took place at the Public Works Ministry with the attendance of 24 delegates from the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE) and three nations including Thailand, Cambodia and Laos.

At this session, the delegates noted down the RVN remarks so as to modify the draft-projects.

According to Mr. Vinh the Mekong River National Committee that he headed, only agreed with the conference on the point that more studies should be made to collect sufficient data for the project drafting.

The projects set forth at the conference, he said, are solely intended for the development of the Mekong Basin area while the RVN needs an equal improvement for all areas over the country.

At the conference, the delegates discussed problems and projects concerning electricity, agriculture, transport, manpower, social welfare, industry, long-term projects, general policy and future study plans.

According to schedule, a seminar will be held next November for more elaborate discussions on the Mekong River Project.

RVN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS GIVEN PRIORITY IN ECAFE CONSIDERATION

Saigon, August 18, 1970--From now on all development projects of the Republic of Viet-Nam will be given priority in their consideration and realization by the Mekong Committee and the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE).

Mr. Pham Huu Vinh, Secretary General of the Public Works Ministry and representative of the RVN at the Mekong Basin Development Project Coordination International Committee made the statement Monday.

According to Mr. Vinh, within the scope of this priority, the RVN is going to have a pilot farming area in An Truong, Vinh Long, which measures about 10,000 hectares.

Similar areas, he added, will be also set up later in Cai San, Go Cong, Kien Hoa and An Giang.

Mr. Vinh made known that since 1957, when the Mekong International Committee was set up, the RVN has received no remarkable help from ECAFE due to the security situation and boiling war activities in the country.

The Mekong International Committee gathering delegates from the four main nations including the RVN, Cambodia, Laos and Thailand along with 26 Free-World nations has the duty to study and map out projects for those four Mekong riparian countries.

Military

RVN NAVY RECEIVES 2 MORE U.S. PATROL CRAFTS

Saigon, August 18, 1970--The Viet-Nam Navy Saturday received two more coast patrol crafts from the U.S. forces at a ceremony held in Cat Lai, 120km. southeast of Saigon.

With former names as "Point Marone" and "Point Cypress", the two are the last crafts of a series of 26 transferred to Viet-Nam since May 1969 within the framework of Training and Transfer Program.

The two patrol crafts will have each a crew of two Navy officers and nine sailors. Each of the crafts is worth 750,000 U.S. dollars.

Sources from JUSPAO said that with the transfer of these two last patrol crafts, the U.S. Navy patrol group officially ended its operations in Viet-Nam. During its five-year term, the U.S. 1st Navy patrol group had moved more than four million miles controlling 250,000 boats and sampans along the coast and through rivers and canals of South Viet-Nam.

The Viet-Nam Navy with a strength of 39,000 is ranked ninth among naval forces throughout the world.

ALL IS NOT WAR IN VIET-NAM

By Nguyen Do

Ngoc Binh, SVN (MF)--A year ago the hamlet of Ngoc Binh, lying along the Lo Moi Canal, 400 kilometers southwest of Saigon, was abandoned and decaying, a victim of Viet Cong harassment and isolation. Today, it is a prosperous, bright community of 1,100 farmers.

Under the 1969 rural pacification and development program, the South Vietnamese government gained control of over ten thousand hamlets, 94 per cent of the nation's total. Many were, like Ngoc Binh, isolated, virtually abandoned in the long years of VC control and guerrilla harassment. This is the kind of news that doesn't make the headlines in the world press and usually doesn't even get reported.

Behind the protection of a Regional Forces Company, farmers returned June last year to find their homes looted and rotting, fields in weeds, and hamlet life at a standstill.

Living in still-standing pagodas, the villagers set about rebuilding, supplied with redevelopment funds. They rebuilt bridges blown out by the Viet Cong, erected new dispensaries, constructed a new market, cleaned out canals and ditches, opened schools, and fixed the decayed road to the district town. Today, a village council has been elected and a hamlet chief chosen by the people. Government machinery is operating again. The hamlet has formed its own Civil Self-Defense Group to ward off any foraging enemy who might again attempt to disrupt the peace of the hamlet.

Estimates now place the number of Vietnamese living under government security at 97 per cent of the nation's 17,500,000 citizens. During the 1969 program, Operation Phoenix eliminated over 33 thousand enemy agents, badly crippling the VC infrastructure, in the countryside.

The government objective was first to bring military security to the former VC areas by using its superior troop strength, mainly in Regional and Popular Forces.

Second, it encouraged local democracy in holding hamlet and village elections. A strong "Return to Village" program, coupled with generous reconstruction aid, attracted farmers back to their traditional lands. Then the government put strong emphasis on self-help and development projects, providing each village with up to one million piasters to match local work effort on needed community projects.

By the end of last year, close to seven thousand construction projects and over twelve thousand self-help projects had been implemented, many for schools, dispensaries, bridges, road improvements, market places, and irrigation works. More than two billion piasters went into the effort.

Newly elected local officials were given special training either at the national center in the sea-side resort of Vung Tau which graduated over sixteen thousand administrators, or attended special courses in provinces which gave training to more than 37,000.

Popular Self-Defense Forces increased to over three million members, more than a third of whom were organized into village security units, a new army of the people.

Now the countryside is alive again with produce and fruit and rice and rural prosperity is on the upturn after years of war.

This year - 1970 - while the government is still pressing further community development in the rural areas, it is now able to start concentrating on the problems of urban areas where wartime overcrowding and neglect have created urgent needs for social and economic improvements.

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